

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Control VR 956
Rec'd November 14, 1952
8:46 p.m.

OLI

FROM: Stockholm

Info

TO: Secretary of State

EUR

NO: Unnumbered, November 14, 8 p.m.

CIA

ARMY

AIR

NAVY

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POUCHED HELSINKI, PARIS, LONDON, MOSCOW, OSLO, COPENHAGEN.

JOINT WEEKA NO. 46, FROM SANA-STOCKHOLM (SECTION I)

POLITICAL:

1. Sweden and UN. Resignation of Trygve Lie and speculation as to possibility of selection of a Swede to succeed him aroused considerable interest. This dismissed, however, by most commentators as unlikely. Although no (rpt no) hint of govt attitude has been given, govt might well prefer that no (rpt no) Swede be put in position of having to face problems which govt itself prefers to avoid facing.

Statement of UNESCO Budgetary Chairman During, warmly commended locally. FONOFF has for sometime been quite critical of UNESCO organization and activities and During's statement is fairly accurate reflection of FONOFF attitude.

2. King's birthday. Event of week which attracted most attn was celebration of King Gustaf Adolf's 70th birthday. As symbols of Nordic friendship, Kings of Norway and Denmark and Pres of Finland visited Stockholm and took part in celebration. In two year period he has been on throne, King has achieved wide personal popularity which was underlined by popular subscription of more than 5 million crowns to birthday fund. King will use fund for cultural projects.

3. New elections. Fol protests by two individual Agrarians, Supreme Admin Court has ruled that elections to Riksdag Lower Chamber were invalid in provinces of Jamtland and Cristianstal because of neglect of formalities during ballot count Sept 21. Thirteen seats are involved and most interesting aspect of fight is that it will be largely between two govt parties since Agrarians lost two seats to Social Democrats by very narrow margins in protested election. New election will be held Dec 14. New balloting adds unwelcome strain to relations between govt parties at time when both are attempting to minimize effects of their losses and election and stressing need for continuance of coalition.

4. Raoul Wallenberg.

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- Stockholm, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., from Stockholm.

Swedish Wallenberg award of rare distinguished service decoration (posthumously) by hint to Wallenberg on Nov 11 widely interpreted as indication that govt has proof he is still alive and in Soviet custody. He has been missing since 1945 when he was taken into "protective custody" by Russians in Budapest where he was serving as Swedish diplomat. Russians have denied for past eight years any knowledge of his whereabouts. Unconfirmed report asserts Sweden recently made new detour in Moscow directly demanding his release.

Info: (See Economic section).

REA: Negative.

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